

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PEPPER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a leader in the Cincinnati community, Mr. John Pepper, who has recently announced his decision to step down as the Chief Executive Officer of the Procter & Gamble Company at year-end.

Under Mr. Pepper's leadership, Procter & Gamble has introduced exciting new products, moved into new markets overseas, and established a strong strategic plan for continued sales growth that will benefit the people of Southwest Ohio.

While he is highly regarded in business circles for his outstanding work at the helm of Procter & Gamble, his contributions to the Greater Cincinnati community, our state and our nation go well beyond his business successes. For years, he has devoted an enormous amount of his personal time and energy to improving the quality of life for all Americans.

Education has been his passion: he is a founder of an innovative youth development program called the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, through which he has touched the lives of many thousands of young people in our area. He has led the effort to get businesses directly involved in improving public education, both in Ohio and nationwide, through the National Education Summit, the Business Roundtable, The Governor's Education Management Council and various other state and federal efforts.

John Pepper has also shown his commitment to service through over 30 years of volunteering for the Cincinnati United Way and Community Chest. In 1994, he chaired the most successful United Way Campaign ever in Greater Cincinnati.

I have had the opportunity to know John Pepper both in my official capacity and through our mutual involvement with the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. In both efforts he was a founding trustee whose credibility and guidance was crucial to the success of the organization and its mission. Time and time again he has proven himself to be a business leader willing to give generously of his time and energy to help others.

While John Pepper's leadership as CEO of Procter & Gamble will be missed, I know many of us look forward to continuing to work with him on projects to make a difference in our community.

HONORING AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
JUSTIN WOTASIK

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I speak today to honor the life of a dedicated young man who died while serving his country. Airman 1st Class Justin Christopher Wotasik was one of twelve persons killed last month in a helicopter

collision near Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. His unit, the 66th Rescue Squadron, was involved in a training exercise when the crash occurred.

Justin graduated in 1996 from Palmdale High School and was an Eagle Scout who attended the 1993 National Scout Jamboree in Virginia. He was one of those rare individuals who at a young age had a profound sense of purpose and knew what he wanted to do with his life. In his brief life, he served as an inspiration to others while symbolizing the dedication shared by many young men and women who pursue a military career.

Justin, who would have celebrated his 20th birthday this month, was buried today in Arlington National Cemetery. Justin, for all you did and all your stood for, thank you and may God bless you.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from my lofty mountain grandeur, and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

IN HONOR OF THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Seventh Anniversary of the Independence of the Armenian Republic, which was celebrated last Monday, September 21st.

Mr. Speaker, last month, we showed on the floor of this House that the Armenian people and nation have many friends in the Con-

gress. During the debate on the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, we succeeded in rolling back an effort to repeal Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act—a provision barring direct aid to the Government of Azerbaijan until that country lifts its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. I'm extremely proud to have been involved in that bipartisan effort. My goal, and that of my colleagues, as American elected officials, was to ensure that we keep a valuable and moral law on the books. But I'm also glad that, the way things worked out, it turned out to be a nice Independence Day present to Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the Armenian people—one of the world's most ancient and enduring cultures, the first nation to adopt Christianity as its national religion—is an inspiring saga of courage and devotion to family and nation. It is also an unforgettable story of the triumph of a people over adversity and tragedy. Earlier in this century, in one of history's most horrible crimes against humanity, 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Every April, Members of this House join in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. We can never relent, and we will never relent, in our efforts to remind the world that this tragedy is an historic fact—despite the efforts of so-called "revisionists," many of them funded by the Turkish government, to deny the truth—and to make sure that our nation, the world community, and especially the Turkish nation, come to terms with and appropriately commemorate this historic fact.

During the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the people of Armenia briefly established an independent state. But the Armenian lands were absorbed either into Atatürk's Turkey, where traces of Armenian history and culture were completely wiped out, or the Soviet Union, where at least some Armenian cultural presence was maintained, even if most of the political shots were called in Moscow.

Mr. Speaker, it was the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that allowed the Armenian people to re-establish a state and a nation, to create a society where their language, culture, religion and other institutions would be able to prosper. The progress made in seven short years by the Republic of Armenia has been an inspiration—not only for the sons and daughters of the Diaspora, but for all Americans who support the cause of freedom. Having survived the Genocide, and having endured decades under the domination of the Soviet Union, the brave people of Armenia have endeavored to build a free and proud nation, based on the principles of democracy and a market economy.

Mr. Speaker, as they have for so much of their history, the Armenian people have accomplished all this against daunting odds. The tiny, land-locked Republic of Armenia is surrounded by hostile neighbors—Turkey and Azerbaijan—who have imposed blockades that have halted the delivery of basic necessities. Yet, independent Armenia continues to persevere. While democracy has proven to be elusive in much of the former Soviet bloc, democratic Armenia held multi-party Presidential elections this year that continued the steady progress towards the permanent taking root of the institutions of democracy and civil society.

As the founder and co-chairman, with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], of the